

What is the art of marbling Ebru?

“Ebru” has long been the name given to the original Turkish art of “paper marbling” and to the “marbled” designs transferred to paper or fabric produced by Ebru artists. Ebru is both enjoyable and creative art. It is easy to learn but difficult to master. Classical ebru is produced in a rectangular trough filled with water mixed with a mucillagenous solution, traditionally prepared using gum tragacanth. The colors, made of natural pigments mixed with ox-gall, are sprinkled over the surface of the water with brushes made of rose stalks and horse hair. Pins, needles, and combs are used to swirl the colors into one another, thus producing a design on the surface of the water. Paper or fabric is laid carefully on the design, and as the paper is lifted from the surface of the water, the design transfers completely to the paper.

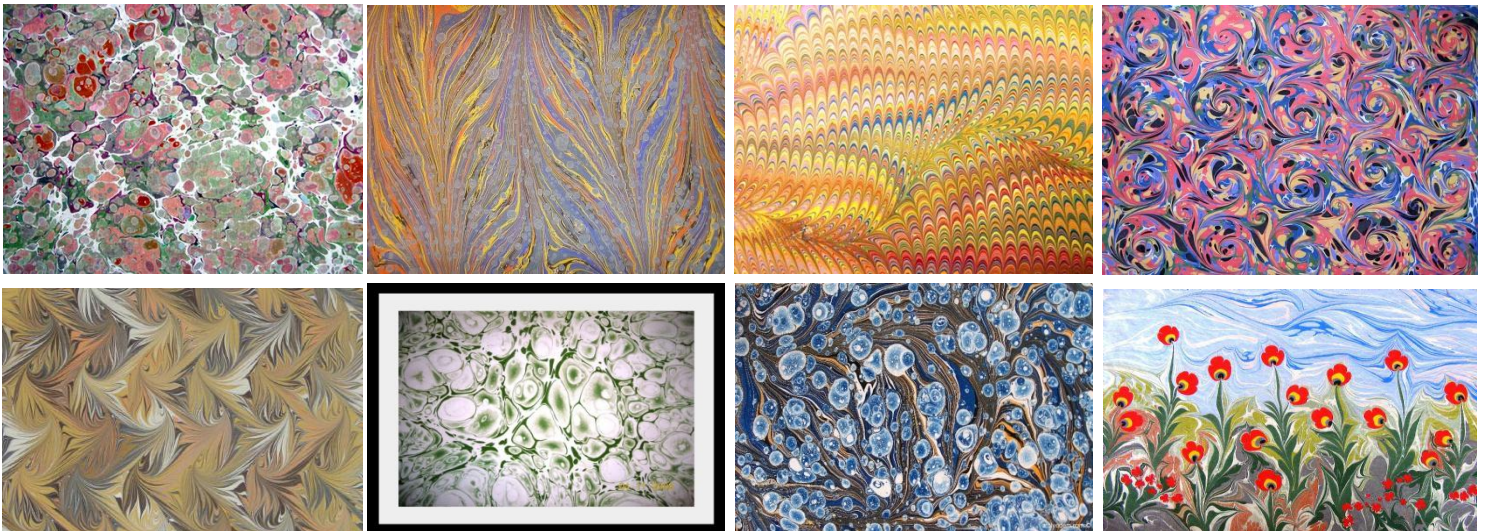
Specimens of marbled paper in Turkish museums and private collections date back as far as the 15th century, but unfortunately there is no evidence to show at what date the art of marbling paper first appeared in Anatolia. “Ebru” has been used not only for fine works of art displayed in homes and galleries worldwide, but also for backgrounds to calligraphy, borders for inscriptions, and endpapers in finely bound books.

Types of Ebru

Throughout history the Masters have prepared many different types of Ebru. Each of these had their own names, reflects a unique art, itself is an example of creativity, sign of elegance and pictures the message for the nourishment of eyes and soul.

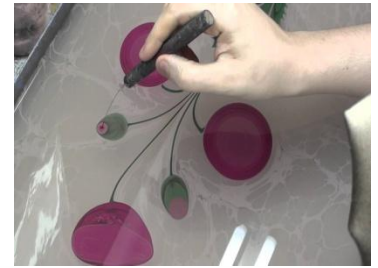
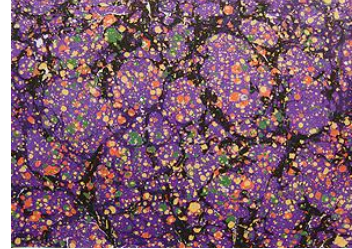
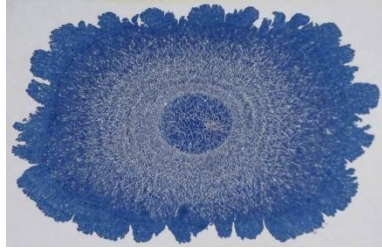
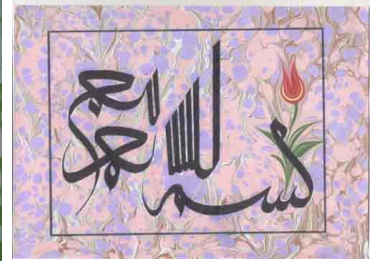
A- Classical Types of Ebru;

Battal, Gel-Git, Şal, Büllbül Yuvası, Taraklı, Neftli Battal, Somaki, Hatip, Çiçekli, Koltuk, Hafif, Yazılı, Ak kâse, Kumlu, Zerafşanlı



B – Modern Types of Ebru;

Fantazi, Kedi Gözü, Dalgalı, Buket, Taş, Serpmeli



Ebru Tools and Equipments :

Marbling vessel (Basin or Tanks) : The liquid used for ebru is placed in a basin that is the same size as the paper being used. Traditionally the basins were made of unknotted pine, but now they are made of many types of wood, as well as metal. These are shallow containers, only 4-6 centimeters in depth.





Gum tragacanth: A white substance obtained from the plants of the Astragalus family common to Turkey, Iran, the Caucasus region and Afghanistan. It is a glue-like substance that gives the water used a degree of viscosity. To prepare it, tragacanth is soaked for two days in water. The preparation is filtered to ensure there are no undissolved particles remaining. The strained liquid is then put into the shallow vessel used for the dyeing process. If it is lime, the water used can be a distilled tap water. The rain water has also been used formerly.



Gall: This is the key ingredient to ebru. Ox bile is boiled to prevent spoiling, and it is used to lower the viscosity of the base liquid and enable the paint to disperse evenly across the water. Without gall, the colors simply sink to the bottom of the basin. It prevents the dyes from bleeding into each other, and it helps the dyes adhere to the paper. The gall is also used by the artist to mix different shades of the same color.



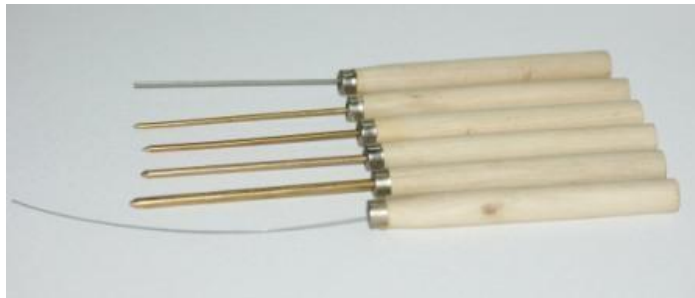
Dyes: Just natural dyes are used in Ebru. These earth-based dyes, containing metal oxides, are crushed with a pestle on a marble slab until reduced to a fine powder. The dyes are placed in separate glass jars and mixed with a small amount of water.



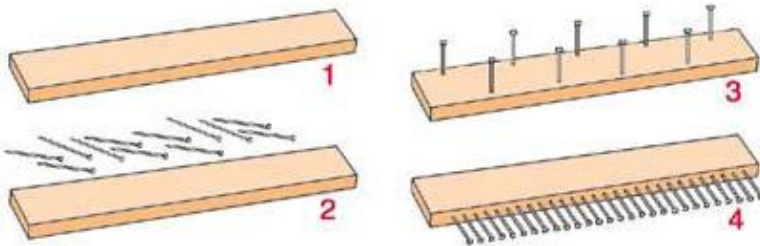
Brushes: The brushes are made from horsehair and rose branches. The brushes are made in different thicknesses and lengths for easier control of the paint.



Stick (Biz) : It's a tool to figure circled dye drops on the water and to make ebb and flow, drop dye for making flowers in the vessel. Sticks made of stainless steel generally have tree stick. Sticks can be used in different wheels from 0.5 to 7-8 mm sizes. Their ends should be elliptical and made of high quality materials.



Pecten: It's a tool made by attaching nearly 5 cm strings called narrow or wide pectened according to thickness to wooden tablet in order, to make pectened marbling 'Hyacinth pecten' marbling where strings are ordered like an egg is used to make hyacinth as well.



Paper: The paper used must not be lacquered or polished in any way. The best paper is handmade, acid-free and absorbent.

Ebru Painting Courseware is an authentic water marbling application, tailored for the students. It teaches the basics of water marbling, and leaves the rest to them. It lets them create patterns and shapes, which cannot be found in an ordinary painting application.



How can you do Ebru Painting?

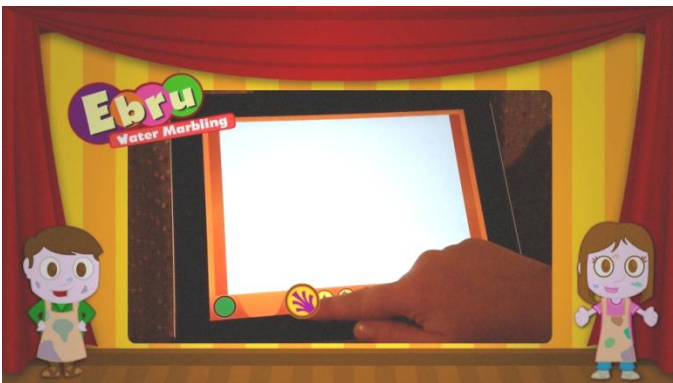
Features of the courseware:



Color Palette: Lets you pick from a number of selected colors. You can use it together with Dripping Brush and Color Dropper.



Dripping Brush: Drips few small drops of selected color onto the tub in one time.





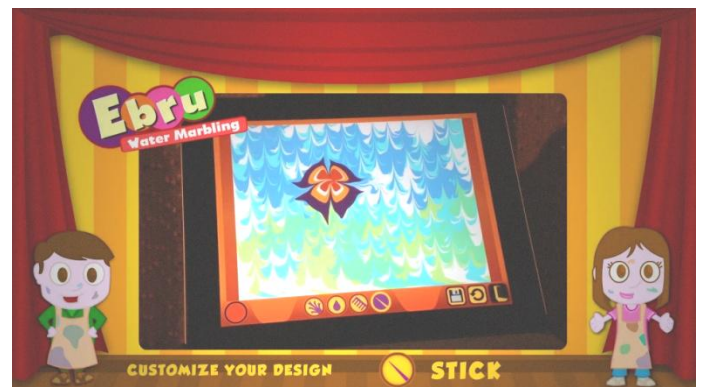
Color Dropper: Puts one drop of selected color with adjustable size. It gets grower when you hold down the button.



Comb: Combs the marbling tub in a given direction, creating a beautiful pattern. The tub has two sticks on the top and the left. After choosing the stick, you can start from any point on the tub.



Pin: Distorts the painting in the direction of movement.





Save&Share: You can save and share your paintings with your friends on Facebook and Twitter.



Undo: Takes a wrong step back.



Exit: Takes you back to the homepage of the courseware.

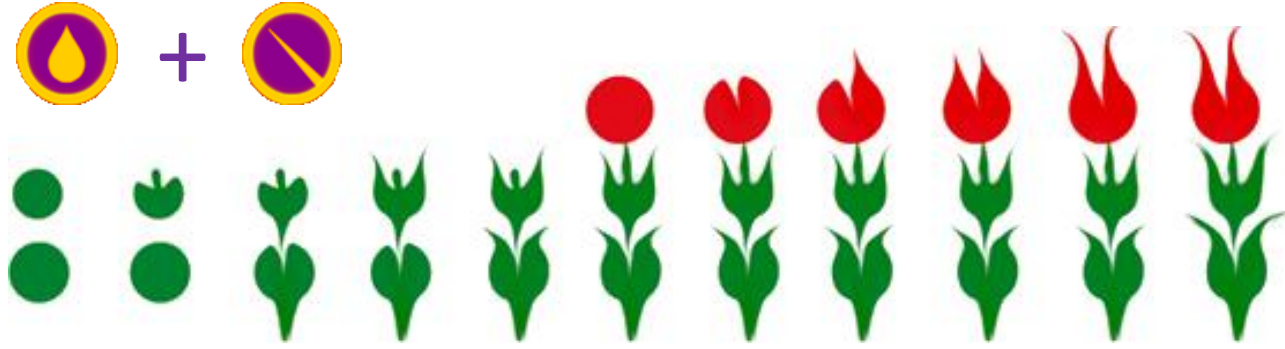


Upload: You can upload any picture from the computer into courseware and work with it on the tub.



Some easy applications with the courseware:

Making tulips :



Making background :



Windows version of the courseware :

<http://f.eba.gov.tr/ebru>

iPhone version of the courseware:

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/ebru-painting/id545935365>

High Definition iPad version of the courseware:

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/ebru-painting-hd/id546299322>